

## Message Text

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11  
ACTION EUR-12

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R 151502Z SEP 76  
FM AMEMBASSY ROME  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9978

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 15053

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: OVIP  
SUBJ: VISIT OF MINISTER ANTONIOZZI TO U.S.

1. DARIO ANTONIOZZI, MINISTER OF TOURISM, SPORT AND ENTERTAINMENT (GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIES FOR LA SCALA, FOR EXAMPLE, FALL WITHIN HIS MINISTRY) INFORMED CHARGE SEPTEMBER 13 THAT HE WAS PLANNING TO LEAVE FOR THE US SEPTEMBER 23. ANTONIOZZI WILL ATTEND THE FINAL PERFORMANCE OF LA SCALA IN NEW YORK THAT EVENING. THE FOLLOWING DAY HE WILL HOLD A MEETING FOR OFFICIALS OF THE ITALIAN TOURIST OFFICES IN THE US, CANADA AND MEXICO. ON SEPTEMBER 25 THE MINISTER WILL MEET WITH PRIVATE AMERICAN TRAVEL AGENTS OR TOUR OPERATORS IN THE INTEREST OF PROMOTING ITALIAN TOURISM FROM THE US TO ITALY. ANTONIOZZI SAID THAT HE HAS CLEARED THIS TRIP ORALLY WITH ANDREOTTI BUT HAS NOT YET PUT THE PAPERWORK THROUGH THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE FOR OFFICIAL APPROVAL. ACCORDINGLY, THE ITALIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON IS NOT YET INFORMED OFFICIALLY OF THE TRIP.

2. ORIGINALLY, ANTONIOZZI WANTED TO GO TO WASHINGTON TO MEET WITH "HIGH LEVEL OFFICIALS" BUT THE CHARGE POINTED OUT THAT THE DATE HE HAD IN MIND, SEPTEMBER 26, WAS A SUNDAY. ANTONIOZZI THEN SUGGESTED THAT PERHAPS IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR HIM TO INVITE A "HIGH OFFICIAL" TO ATTEND THE CLOSING PERFORMANCE OF LA SCALA ON THE 23RD. ON THIS OCCASION, MINISTER ANTONIOZZI WOULD HOPE TO HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS POLITICAL SUBJECTS. IN THIS CONNECTION, DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE AWARE THAT ANTONIOZZI IS ONE OF THE THREE VICE PRESIDENTS FOR THE NEW EUROPE-WIDE  
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CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PEOPLES PARTY WHICH WAS RECENTLY FORMED

IN BRUSSELS. THE PRESIDENT IS LEO TINDEMANS AND THE OTHER VICE  
PRESIDENTS ARE VON HASSE FROM GERMANY AND SCHMELTSE FROM THE  
NETHERLANDS.

3. ANTONIOZZI IS FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARD THE US AND THIS BRIEF  
TRIP (HE MUST RETURN FOR A CABINET MEETING ON THE 28TH) SEEMS TO  
BE REASONABLE. WE ASSUME THE ITALIAN EMBASSY WILL BE ENGAGED  
IN THIS PROJECT WITHIN A FEW DAYS AND RECOMMEND THAT THE DEPARTMENT  
HELP THEM IN LOCATING AN APPROPRIATE US PERSONALITY TO ATTEND THE  
FINAL PERFORMANCE OF LA SCALA AS ANTONIOZZI'S GUEST. BEAUDRY

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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